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How to Homeschool Yourself

Sick of school and can't see a way out of it because your parents work or are not willing to invest the time in homeschooling? Don't worry, there's still hope! If you're a teenager, you can self-school by teaching yourself.

Steps

1 **Learn about homeschooling in general.** Find out about the benefits of homeschooling, like socialization, efficiency, and individualization, as well as the different methods, such as unit studies, notebooking, unschooling, and school-at-home. Think about your learning preferences, level of motivation, and decide what would work best for you. Read Grace Llewellyn's Teenage Liberation Handbook. It should awaken the autodidactic spirit in you.

2 **Read up on the homeschooling laws in your area.** Your region may require as little as a notice of intent or as much as quarterly reports and annual assessment. Find out exactly what is required of you and decide whether or not you're still up to it.

3 **Talk to your parents about your ideas.** They will need to help you set up your homeschool legally. It's also important for them to understand what you'll be doing and why you want to self-school.

4 **Decide upon what you want to learn about.** Take into account that there may be mandatory subjects by law in your region or things you have to study for college admissions. Once you have those bases covered you are free to add the subjects of your liking, from vegetable gardening, to meditation, history of art, European royalty, Asian studies, all sorts of languages, the sky is the limit! If you find that your interests aren't compatible with homeschool, think again! How abut you brush up on the history of videogames? Or learn to write in goth calligraphy?

5 **Plan out what you would do for each subject.** For math, borrow or purchase a used textbook, and work through the problems. For English, write stories and essays on topics that interest you. Go to the library and check out some books. Even if you hated the classics in school, try to read them on your own. Often you only thought you hated them because you were frustrated with school. Use the library and the internet as much as possible because they are wonderful resources. Look at Cafi Cohen's Homeschooling: The Teen Years for ideas. Ideally, you'll have a list of goals to accomplish in each subject and then act on it.

6 **Talk to your parents about your plans, and if they're in, ask them to help you deal with the legalities.** They may need to write letters to the district and/or explain what you're going to study for each subject. If they're hesitant, agree to conduct a trial period. Then, impress them by demonstrating your version of self-directed education.

7 **Once you're legally self-schooling, keep up the good work!** Don't slack off because you will suffer in the future. Work hard, but enjoy the learning process and the freedom of self-schooling. Plan time for friends, fun, and creative activities.

8 **Keep detailed records of your self-schooling.** Keep track of the assignments you do, photographs of you doing projects, volunteering, and having fun, and anything else that documents your experience in a scrapbook or portfolio. Be extremely responsible and mature by remembering this step. It is especially important if you're planning to go to college. Read the Homeschooler's Guide to Portfolios and Transcripts and search the internet for information about homeschooling into college, maintaining portfolios, and creating transcripts. Read the Homeschooler's College Admissions Handbook by Cafi Cohen.

9 **Enjoy the self-schooling experience because you are one of the rare children to exceed expectations and take their education into their own hands.** It is likely that you will impress people with your knowledge,

independence, and motivation, including colleges!

Community Q&A

What age do you need to be to homeschool yourself?

wikiHow Contributor

You should probably be in at 11 years old. If you're younger than that, consider asking your parents to help set your homeschooling up and keep you on track with your studies.

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I'm in seventh grade and hate school. I'm anxious about everyone and everything. I want to be home-schooled, but my mom said she doesn't have the qualifications to help me learn. What should I do?

wikiHow Contributor

Try using websites such as Khan Academy, and make sure your parents know there are online resources out there to help you.

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Can I home-school myself if I'm under 18?

wikiHow Contributor

It depends on the laws in your state, and you will need your parent or guardian's consent. You will also have to follow the curriculum required in your state as opposed to just creating and following your own.

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How do I begin the process of homeschooling my children?

wikiHow Contributor

Research laws, and get into a homeschooling website, which provides worksheets and tips along the way. Make sure you create a calm and peaceful environment for your children to work in, too.

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My mom's excuse is that she'll be working and I can't stay by myself, but does that really matter if I'm 13?

wikiHow Contributor

If you can demonstrate that you can take care of yourself, and know what to do in an emergency, then you should be able to stay alone. Ultimately, though, it's her decision. Keep in mind that you won't prove your maturity to her by whining about it.

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Tips

- Depending on how you are most productive, it may help to set up a schedule, set dates for papers you impose on yourself about things you need or want to learn more about or even test yourself on pre-assigned dates. A weekly and monthly schedule may be from helpful to plain essential
- Be prepared to defend your stance on education with logic and make yourself an example of self-schooling success.

Warnings

- You may face discrimination, stereotyping and other politically incorrect reactions from people. Be ready with logic and make a great impression.
- Plan for your future and know if you want to go to college.

Things You'll Need

- [ ] Internet or library access